

## Hurricanes—What should I do to protect my family?

**The most important thing we can do is to be aware of the potential danger of a Hurricane in our area and have a plan of action in the face of a severe storm.**

Hurricanes bring the double threat of damaging high winds and widespread flooding for Barrington. Narragansett Bay is shaped like a funnel that can concentrate the storm surge to the top of the Bay where we reside. The result makes 80% of Barrington susceptible to flooding in a Category 3 or 4 storm. This prospect has altered the Town's emergency planning to consider regional resources as safer alternates to the existing Shelters in Barrington .

### Categories of Hurricanes

Scale	Sustained Winds MPH	Flood Surge (feet)	Type of Damage
1	74-95	4-5	<u>Minimal</u> Trees, unsecured structures Minimal coastal flooding
2	96-110	6-8	<u>Moderate</u> Roofing, windows, Some inland flooding
3	111-130	9-12	<u>Extensive</u> Structural damage to buildings Significant inland flooding
4	131-154	13-18	<u>Extreme</u> Extensive damage to buildings Severe inland flooding
5	>155	>18	<u>Catastrophic</u> Extensive damage to buildings Severe inland flooding

## **Flooding in Barrington**

Barrington's topography and position at the upper end of the Bay makes our Town most susceptible for widespread flooding, especially if the storm strikes at or close to high tide.

R.I. Emergency Management Agency has developed Hurricane Planning Maps to indicate to all citizens what areas of the State are subject to Storm Surge flooding in Hurricanes. These maps also provide a State-wide escape route system intended to lead people out of harm's way toward shelter.

**Find where you live on the Map and what Category of Storm will cause flooding in your neighborhood.**

**On the Internet**—<https://204.139.0.188/website/Hevac/viewer.htm>

This site allows you to click down to Barrington and your street to see if you are advised to evacuate and seek shelter during a Category 1&2 or a Category 3&4 storm. These maps show expected flooding at the upper end of the storm projections. They are designed to guide citizens to act on the safe side and save lives.

**At the Town Hall--**

The detail map of Barrington with the same flooding projections is on display.

**This map also indicates escape routes out of Town in the direction of available Shelters.**

## **Hurricane Forecasting**

Television and Radio news is the best source of up to date information on hurricane status and forecast. As a storm progresses in our direction more and frequent information is best. As storms approach Cape Hatteras, North Carolina they tend to speed up in movement North. What might have taken three days to progress from south Florida might take 24 hours to travel from N.C. to Rhode Island.

## Important Terms:

Hurricane Watch-- Storm conditions are *possible* within 36 hours

Hurricane Warning—Storm conditions are *expected* with 24 hours

## **What to do when a storm is imminent**

### **Hurricane Watch issued**

Gather your emergency supplies that you would need at home or a shelter.  
Secure items that would blow around in your yard and protect windows.  
Secure your boat to withstand the storm.

### **Hurricane Warning issued**

**If you are in a flood zone or are concerned about staying in your home, go to a friend or relative's home where you feel safe or go to a designated Shelter.**

If you have determined that your home is a safe place to be during the Storm, you should have:

- 3 day supply of water
- food that won't spoil
- prescription medicines
- First aid kit
- battery powered radio
- Emergency tools
- flashlights/battery operated lanterns
- money
- special items for infants or elderly
- consider a portable electric generator

Two Shelters formerly designated in Barrington are no longer considered appropriate for the potential flooding that might occur. The Sowams and High School Shelters will not be opened in the case of a Hurricane. They are in a designated possible flood area.

### **Shelters for Category 1 and 2 storms**

**The Barrington Middle School will be opened under Category 1 and 2 conditions only.**

### **Shelters for Category 3 and 4 storms**

We have agreements with neighboring communities to provide shelters for **Barrington residents for Category 3 and 4 Storms.**  
(These shelters are outside of potential flood areas.)

East Providence-- Riverside Middle School, Forbes Rd.  
E.P. High School, Pawtucket Ave

Seekonk-- Middle School, Newman Ave.  
High School, Arcade Ave.

Rehoboth-- Middle School, Rt. 44 (near the intersection of Rt. 118)

### **What to bring to the Shelter**

You should plan for a possible 3 day stay for a severe storm. Bring blankets, pillows, change of clothes, prescription medicines, baby food, toiletries, flashlight, identification, valuable papers, money, portable radio and kids' favorite entertainment/reading.

The Shelters will be manned by Red Cross trained personnel and will provide sleeping cots and food.

**After a storm**

Don't leave the Shelter until authorities notify you that it is safe to travel in your neighborhood and that flood waters have receded.

A reminder: There will likely be no electricity at your home for some time.